



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/827,087	04/19/2004	Kuang-Kai Liu	9607	1863
27752	7590	12/08/2005	EXAMINER	
THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION WINTON HILL TECHNICAL CENTER - BOX 161 6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE CINCINNATI, OH 45224				BOGART, MICHAEL G
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3761	
DATE MAILED: 12/08/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

TWA

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/827,087	LIU, KUANG-KAI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Michael G. Bogart	3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/4/04; 8/22/05</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the physical structure of the absorbent article, including the topsheet, backsheet, absorbent core and the wetness indicator's relationship to these elements must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

The figures are additionally objected to because they are informal (e.g., line definition).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

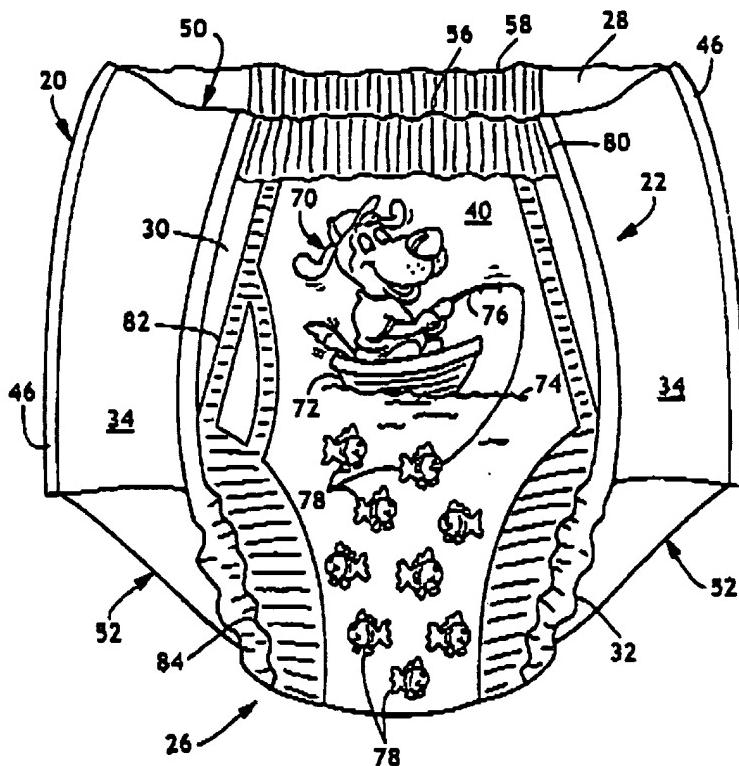
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Pierce *et al.* (WO 00/76438 A2)(hereinafter: “Pierce”).

Regarding claims 1 and 13, Pierce teaches a disposable absorbent article (20) and method of making the same comprising:

a) a liquid pervious topsheet (42);
b) a liquid impervious backsheet (40) that is at least partially joined to the topsheet (42);
c) an absorbent core (32) disposed at least partially between the topsheet (42) and the backsheet (40); and
d) a wetness indicator disposed between the absorbent core (32) and the backsheet (40) and in liquid communication with the absorbent core (32)(e.g., printed on backsheet interior surface); the wetness indicator comprising a central graphic (78) and a background graphic (70); wherein the background graphic comprises at least one responsive color composition and that, upon wetting, exhibits a visible change that is selected from the group consisting of a color change, a graphic change, and combinations thereof (page 7, lines 14-19)(see fig. 1, below).

Regarding claim 8, Pierce teach a second color change element page 9, line 30-page 10, line 27.



Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-7 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pierce (WO 00/76438 A2) in view of Baker (US 3,675,654), Ball US 4,909,879) and Ito *et al.* (US 3,675,654).

Regarding claims 2-5, 9, 11 and 12, Pierce does not teach the specific types/forms of pigments, dyestuffs solvents or a varnish coating.

These components are commonly issued in a wide variety of combinations in textile graphics production and in changeable graphics/indicators in absorbent articles. For example:

Baker teaches a varnish coating used to coat a moisture-actuated indicating agent (col. 1, lines 40-47) and solid pigment particles (col. 7, lines 31-44).

Ito *et al.* teach a non-aqueous solvent (claim 1).

Ball teaches the use of soluble dyestuff (abstract).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to add the component materials of the secondary references to make the graphics of Pierce in order to provide very well known components of graphics/indicator/dye formation.

Regarding the specific ranges of materials, generally, differences in ranges will not support the patentability of subject matter encompassed by the prior art unless there is evidence indicating such concentration or temperature is critical. “[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation.” *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

A particular parameter must first be recognized as a result-effective variable, i.e., a variable which achieves a recognized result, before the determination of the optimum or workable ranges of said variable might be characterized as routine experimentation. *In re Antonie*, 559 F.2d 618, 195 USPQ 6 (CCPA 1977). MPEP § 2144.05.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the benefits of increasing or decreasing the amount of pigment, dyestuff, or solvent and would have been motivated to find the optimal weight % of each component.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Pierce teaches a permanent background graphic but does not teach a permanently colored central graphic. This amounts to an aesthetic design change, which cannot patentably distinguish the invention over the prior art. See *In re Seid*, 161 F.2d 229, 73 USPQ 431 (CCPA 1947).

Regarding claim 10, Pierce teach a second color change element page 9, line 30-page 10, line 27.

Conclusion

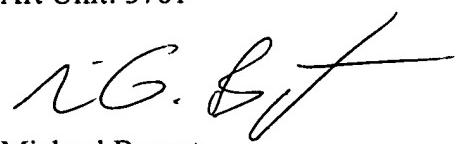
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Bogart whose telephone number is (571) 272-4933.

In the event the examiner is not available, the Examiner's supervisor, Tatyana Zalukaeva may be reached at phone number (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for formal communications. For informal communications, the direct fax to the Examiner is (571) 273-4933.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3700.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit: 3761



Michael Bogart
5 December 2005

TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER

